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ADAMSON, BELL & Co., Agents,
Hongkong, 8th July, 1885.

NOTICE.

A. S. WATSON & CO.
FAMILY AND DISPENSARY
CHEMISTS.

By Appointment to His Excellency the Governor and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS.

PERFUMES,
PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS,
DRUGGISTS' SUNSHYEN,
And
STERILIZED WATER MAKERS.

SHIPS' MEDICINE CHESTS RE-FITTED,
PASSENGER SHIPS SUPPLIED.

NOTICE.—To avoid delay in the execution of Orders it is particularly requested that all business communications be addressed to the Firm, A. S. Watson & Co., or
HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.
Communications on Editorial matters should be addressed to "The Editor," and those on business to "The Manager," and not to individuals by name.

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until countermanded.

Orders for extra copies of the Daily Press should be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication. After that hour the supply is limited.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JULY 27th, 1888.

The statement that Russia has made a treaty with Korea by which she acquires a protectorate over that country is one, which, while probably true to some extent, may nevertheless need qualification. The Tientsin correspondent of one of the Shanghai papers says:—"Of course, not a word can be said against the legality of such an arrangement after the precedent of France in Annam." But the cases are not parallel. Annam had no treaties with other foreign powers at the time France established her protectorate, whereas Korea has been actively engaged for several years past in making treaties right and left, and is still pursuing the same course. The treaty just concluded with Russia may give that power advantages which have not been conceded by former treaties, but whatever those advantages may be, the international obligations Korea has already taken upon herself will have to be acknowledged and fulfilled. These, it is true, would not necessarily bar annexation, any more than the Tunisian capitulations barred the annexation of Tunis by France, but in view of the peculiar situation of Korea, its annexation is a task which neither Russia nor any other power would be likely to enter upon lightly. Both China and Japan would bitterly resent such aggression, and it is not Russia's policy at present to incur the enmity of those countries. As to the attitude of England, the question would arise whether the integrity of Korea is a matter worth fighting about. To this, we think, the home public would return an answer in the negative. England's only interest in the Far East is to protect her commerce, and for this she must look to the fleet, together with such coaling stations as she already possesses or may think it necessary to acquire in order to facilitate the operations of the fleet. If she is wise she will rely on the strength of her own right arm and cold embassies, alliances with Asiatic states. It is to her interest to cultivate friendly relations with China and Japan, but if she enters into agreements formally guaranteeing the integrity of their territories she will undertake responsibilities which at some future time may lead her into serious difficulties. The same remarks apply to Korea. We do not want Afghan difficulties all the world over. Anywhere on the sea we can meet Russia with confidence, but to fight her in the fields of Asia would be a troublesome and difficult matter, and as regards Korea and the Amoor region all that could be gained by fighting would not be worth the cost. If Korea were occupied by Russia, an event we do not regard as very probable at present, England will simply have to strengthen her own position by increasing the number and efficiency of her fleet and occupying such positions as she may require for naval stations. One of the Tientsin correspondents says Sir Robert Hart has been selected for the post of Minister to Peking because he is the man best fitted to carry out negotiations for an Anglo-Chinese-Japanese alliance on which Sir Harry Parkes was engaged at the time of his death. Whether any such negotiations have been going on we cannot say, but if so we feel confident that the suggestion for this new tri-partite alliance did not emanate from the late Minister. He knew the condition of China too well to look upon her as a desirable ally. It is evident, however, the question has been mooted in certain quarters, if it has not actually entered on the stage of negotiation. Mr. Conqueror says:—"The combination is—(a) Anglo-Chinese as far as Afghanistan, (b) Anglo-Chinese as far as Korea, and (c) Anglo-Chinese-Japanese for the protection of Korea alone." Such an arrangement would be a most disadvantageous one for England. We have on former occasions referred to the importance to China of England's friendship; this is useful to her in many ways; but under no circumstances ought England to interfere in the ill-Kulja affair. At any moment a collision may occur on the frontier between the Chinese and Russians, and it would be excessively inconvenient for England to be constantly liable to be embroiled in a quarrel concerning the rights and wrongs of which she knew nothing. As to Korea, foreign commercial interests there are small, and such as they are would probably be benefited rather than prejudiced by Russian occupation, as the development of the country would then be more probable, and the provisions of the existing treaties with other foreign powers would still have to be observed. From a strategic point of view, the Russian occupation, if it takes place, need not cause much alarm to England. The completion

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THE KWANGTUNG INUNDATIONS.

The following further subscriptions have been received for the relief of the sufferers by the floods in Kwangtung:

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of the Canadian Pacific railway has brought Korea much nearer to Great Britain than it is to Russia, and, if necessary, troops and supplies could be massed on the Pacific coast of Canada ready for operations against the possessions of Russia in the North in as many weeks as it would take Russia months to bring up anything like an equivalent force, besides which England will always have a preponderant naval force in these waters.

Lord Beaconsfield's policy was to give India a scientific frontier and avoid an Afghan alliance. A similar policy ought to prevail with reference to British commercial interests in the Far East. Let a scientific chain of properly fortified coaling stations be established, a strong and efficient fleet be maintained, and all offensive and defensive alliances with semi-civilized and unreliable powers be avoided. Such an alliance with China would simply mean that we would have to fight her battles on the Amoor without any security that she would fulfil her obligations to us.

The *Catholic Register*, which is a religious organ, would do well to bear in mind the command—"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." For some short time past the *Register* has been ill. Commenting on a statement to this effect, the *Register* says:—"Whether the *Register* of Canton is compelled to do what he does not like he gets ill." Here is a distasteful allegation that the *Register* habitually shames himself whenever he has any trouble, some business on hand. What instances can the *Register* produce to prove this habit? That his Excellency Chang Chi-tung is intimate to foreigners may reasonably be deduced from his utterances in the past and his whole official career? That, however, is no reason why he should be made the object of dishonourable innuendo. It would be a good thing if he were replaced by a more liberal minded man, but mere belief that a person is not suited to a particular office does not justify false accusations against him. Controversial weapons such as ridicule and sarcasm may be allowable within certain bounds, but what the *Catholic Register* does is to make a direct statement that not once or twice only has the *Register* shamed himself, but that he does so habitually. The particular cause alleged by our contemporary for the present pretended illness is contained in the following passage:—"Now that the matter of compensation for all the missionary losses caused by his unwise policy is hanging over his head, in order to have a pretext to avoid answering the urgent requests from Peking he makes himself ill." But have any such urgent requests been received yet? We very much doubt it. In any case Chang's previous history would not lead to the belief that

